GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2311
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
REVIEW IN FUNCTIONING OF TRAI
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of organizations like Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to find out whether Government is bearing losses and Private Sectors are benefiting from these organizations;

(b) if not, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the provisions made by the Government to save these agencies from getting influenced by the Private Sector; and

(d) the reaction of the Government regarding the functioning of the said organizations under the said provisions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (d) The functioning of TRAI is subject to examination/review by various Parliamentary Committees like Standing Committee on IT, Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Committee on Papers Laid etc. Budgetary proposals and functioning of TRAI are being examined by Standing Committee on IT by way of oral evidence and soliciting written comments from TRAI. The regulations issued by TRAI are also being examined by Committee on Subordinate Legislation. Also the accountability of TRAI towards Parliament is ensured through the Annual Reports of TRAI detailing summary of its activity at the end of every financial year.

Moreover, by amendment in TRAI Act, 1997, the Government established the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) in May, 2000 to adjudicate any dispute:-

i) Between a licensor and a licensee,
ii) Between two or more service providers;
iii) Between a service provider and a group of consumers; and to hear and dispose of appeal against any direction, decision or order of TRAI.